

# Postmarks

Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt

From Army Posts Around the World

PVT Emma Hayes



"Welcome home" signs were everywhere at Fort Bragg to mark the return of the 82nd Avn. Bde. soldiers.

## Fort Bragg, N.C.

### Fort Bragg Soldiers Redeploy

FAMILY and friends gathered in the middle of the night to welcome back about 160 Fort Bragg soldiers who redeployed after seven months in Bosnia where, as part of Task Force Eagle, they supported the NATO-led stabilization force.

"Welcome Home" placards and balloons decorated Pope Air Force Base's Green Ramp, where soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's Aviation Brigade disembarked.

While at Comanche Base, the brigade's aviation elements trained intensively and conducted reconnaissance and security missions and air movement operations, said CPT Jack Murphy, assistant operations

officer. "There's a very high operational tempo for aircrews in Bosnia. Our crews flew three times as many flights as they would on a normal deployment mission."

"Morale stayed high," said CPT Craig Alia, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion. "Everyone was getting tired toward the end, but we stayed focused." — PVT Emma Hayes, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office

## Fort Lewis, Wash.

### U.S.-Japanese Exercise

AFTER a year's preparation, the eighth annual fall combined arms live-fire exercise at Fort Lewis' Yakima Training Center between U.S. and Japanese soldiers almost didn't happen.

"Thanks to I Corps' support, we were able to successfully conduct this training exercise during the very busy times after the terrorist attacks," said Maj. Gen. Haruyoshi Endo, vice commanding general of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's 9th Division, North Eastern Army.

The exercise scenario gauges Japan's ability to react to a possible attack.

"Because of training-area limitations in our country, it's impossible for us to fire our weapons using their maximum capabilities," Endo said. "Here, we're able to fire our weapons at maximum capability, so we're able to conduct real-world training."

In Japan, he said, soldiers can only fire the heavy anti-tank missile and the TOW at ranges of about 2,000 meters. At the training center, they can fire the weapons at close to their 4,000-meter maximum range.

"This exercise is a continuation of a strong bilateral engagement with Japan," said BG William H. Brandenburg, deputy commanding general for training and readiness at I Corps and Fort Lewis. "We go to Japan for an exercise every year, and Japanese units come to Yakima Training Center to conduct an exercise."

Besides offering an opportunity to maneuver in large areas at YTC, the exercise allows soldiers of both countries to work closely together, said Brandenburg.

Additionally, the Japanese were able to fire all their weapon systems simultaneously, Endo said.

**Japanese soldiers load a Type 90 tank — bound for Yakima Training Center, Wash. — aboard a trailer at the Port of Tacoma.**

"Last year we fired the multi-purpose missile system for the first time," said Sgt. Takashi Wakasugi. "The system was tested for short-distance targets by army headquarters in Japan. We took the data from last year's long-distance testing and improved it for this year's exercise."

Next year, I Corps soldiers will get their chance to train with soldiers of the North Eastern Army during Yama Sakura XXXXI. — SGT Reeba Critser, Fort Lewis PAO

## Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

### Morale-Boosters on the Way

AN important letter on the desk of COL Vincent Brooks — Task Force Falcon deputy commander, East, in Kosovo — almost didn't make it. "Dear Soldier," wrote Jacob Ayub, a first-grader in Georgia. "I salute you for all that you do. Your Friend, Jacob."

Jacob's letter, with about 900 boxes of donated books, tapes and other items, was scheduled to be shipped from

SSG Robert Albion





**Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division prepare to unload a pallet full of goodies at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.**

Georgia to Kosovo to boost the spirits of 3rd Infantry Division soldiers deployed there, when the terrorist attacks occurred.

"The impact of Sept. 11 affected all travel, even cargo travel," said Brooks. He said the packages could not be shipped from any of the nearby Air Force bases because all

flights were targeted for other missions, or grounded, due to the attacks.

"We were told to break open the boxes and distribute the items back to family members," said Brooks' wife, Carol.

Army Community Services volunteers, the division's 1st Brigade rear detachment commander, and others, however, had other ideas.

Casey Craig, a member of the 11th Engineer Battalion's Family Support Group, contacted Michael Wilhelm, vice president of ABF Freight Systems.

Wilhelm, a former service member, secured his company's approval to ship the cargo more than 700 miles from Georgia to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

In the meantime, Anne Bergstrom of U.S. Army, Europe's morale, welfare and recreation office offered ideas on how to ship MWR items to soldiers. And CPT Roemo Wright and CPT Stephen

Collins, both from Task Force Falcon's logistics office, found a way to get the packages shipped from Dover.

The collaboration paid off when Allan McCosh, the liaison officer between the Defense Logistics Agency and the 3rd Inf. Div. logistics task force, got the goods to Camp Bondsteel and Camp Montieth. — *CPT Daniel Byer, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO*

#### **Ramstein AB, Germany**

### **Soldiers Contribute to Afghan Relief**

SOLDIERS and airmen united during a long holiday weekend in Germany to help Afghans get much-needed food.

Forty-six members of the 21st Theater Support Command's 5th Quartermaster Co. and 20 members of the 37th Airlift Squadron Air Delivery Flight built new airdrop-container delivery systems and packaged them with humani-

tarian daily rations.

They spent a day filling two Air Force cargo planes with approximately 35,000 rations, said CPT Jason Soriano, commander, 5th QM Co.

"Working with airmen is nothing new for our soldiers. We work with these guys everyday," he said. What was new for the airmen and soldiers was the Tri-wall Air Delivery, or TRIAD, system, said Air Force Master Sgt. Samer Alkhoury, an aerial delivery flight superintendent.

The TRIAD uses reinforced cardboard boxes designed to come apart in the air. The roughly 410 rations in each box then fall to the ground.

The system does not use parachutes. Gravity forces the TRIAD out of the plane. The static line then pulls and cuts a gate that's attached to the box as it leaves the aircraft, then the bottom and top fall away and the rations "float" to the ground, Alkhoury said. — *MSG Sue Harper, 21st TSC PAO*

